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Here's Where To Look For Assassins

While the Secret Service was combing the UMass campus for potential assassins, the CIA was conducting job interviews at the University Placement Service offices and anti-CIA protesters were rallying to denounce the activities of the agency and its presence on campus.

Approximately two dozen UMass students signed up for two days of interviews last week with the CIA, according to Placement Services Director Art Hilson, who said that agency recruiters have been welcome on campus whenever there have been students interested in being interviewed. Student placement offices on other area campuses said that CIA recruiters also visited Smith and Amherst last week, but not Hampshire and Mt. Holyoke.

"It's just another government agency interviewing students as they've always done," Hilson said. Asked why he thought the CIA recruiting was being protested this year, he said, "Sometimes they've picketed Dow Chemical, sometimes military recruiters. It depends where they are politically, who's in the seat of power in student government."

On Nov. 20, the first day of CIA job interviews at UMass, an estimated 150 anti-CIA protesters marched to Hampshire House (where the placement offices are located) after a mid-day rally outside the Student Union. The rally was addressed by Paul Ferguson of the Western Mass. Latin American Solidarity Committee, who spoke on the history of CIA activity in Latin America, and John Bracey of the UMass Afro-American Studies faculty, who spoke on domestic CIA operations directed against black and student organizations. Marchers carried placards and banners and chanted slogans like, "No way, CIA."

Karen Lederer, a rally organizer, said it was important to speak out now because several bills to loosen restrictions on CIA activities are pending in Congress.

Hilson told reporters that the CIA recruiter had left the UMass campus by the time the marchers arrived at Hampshire House. Shortly thereafter the *Advocate* discovered an agency representative still upstairs in the recruiters' lounge, whereupon Hilson amended his story to say that one recruiter had left UMass to conduct interviews at Amherst. The recruiter who remained at Hampshire House declined to be

interviewed, saying, "Just present their (the marchers') side, that will be enough."

Dale Peterson, a CIA spokesman in the public affairs office at the agency's headquarters in Virginia, said that CIA recruiting and anti-CIA protests had occurred "on just about every campus in the United States." He said that protests today are "indecisive compared to what was going on in the late '60s and early '70s." One reason for the reduced level of anti-CIA protest, Peterson suggested, might be Executive Order 12036, which "restricts the kinds of activities we can be involved in." He said that many things the agency did a decade or so ago it ought not to have done, but that the concerns of the protesters at UMass and elsewhere have been taken care of through the executive order.

"They should conduct their protests against the United States government," Peterson said. "We are responsive to the National Security Council and the president of the United States. If they are protesting our activities overseas, then they are in opposition to United States foreign policy."